

Application No.: 10/731199

Case No.: 59001US002

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated June 21, 2005, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as having been obvious over International Publication 99/219935 or Vitukhnovsky et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,699,597 (Bellman et al.). The Bellman et al. patent was cited for disclosing thermal transfer, as that type of transfer is not disclosed in the International Publication or Vitukhnovsky et al.

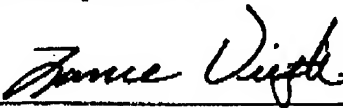
In accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 103(c)(1), Applicant's representative respectfully submits that the Bellman et al. patent is not prior art to the present application. The Bellman et al. patent would otherwise only qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in that it was filed before the filing date of the present application but did not publish more than one year before the filing date of the present application. The present application and the Bellman et al. patent were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to 3M Innovative Properties Company. In fact, both the present application and the Bellman et al. patent have been assigned to 3M Innovative Properties Company, as evidenced by assignments recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office.

With the Bellman et al. patent disqualified as prior art, the International Publication and Vitukhnovsky et al. do not disclose or suggest all elements of claims 1-17. In particular, they do not disclose or suggest the use of thermal transfer as claimed.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

October 19, 2005  
Date

By:   
Lance L. Vietzke, Reg. No.: 36,708  
Telephone No.: 651-737-2180

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

|   |                             |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO (modified)</b><br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>(Use as many sheets as necessary)<br><br>Page 1 of 1 | <b>Application Number</b>   | <b>10/731199</b>            |
|   | <b>Filing Date</b>          | <b>December 9, 2003</b>     |
|   | <b>First Named Inventor</b> | <b>Wolk, Martin B.</b>      |
|   | <b>Art Unit</b>             | <b>1752</b>                 |
|   | <b>Examiner Name</b>        | <b>Richard L. Schilling</b> |
|   | <b>Attorney Case Number</b> | <b>59001US002</b>           |

| U.S. Patent Documents |          |                                  |                 |  |   |   |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| Exam. Init.*          | Cite No. | Document Number                  |                 | Publication Date or Issue Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|                       |          | Doc. Number-(Kind Code if Known) |                 |  |   |   |
|                       | A1       | US-                              | 2005/0017629 A1 | 01-27-2005                                   | Vitukhnovsky et al.                             |   |
|                       | A2       | US-                              |                 |  |   |   |
|                       | A3       | US-                              |                 |  |   |   |
|                       | A4       | US-                              |                 |  |   |   |
|                       | A5       | US-                              |                 |  |   |   |
|                       | A6       | US-                              |                 |  |   |   |
|                       | A7       | US-                              |                 |  |   |   |
|                       | A8       | US-                              |                 |  |   |   |
|                       | A9       | US-                              |                 |  |   |   |
|                       | A10      | US-                              |                 |  |   |   |
|                       | A11      | US-                              |                 |  |   |   |

| Foreign Patent Documents |          |                         |                            |                                |   |   |                               |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Exam. Init.*             | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document |                            | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | Translation<br>(Check if yes) |
|                          |          | Ctry. Code              | Number-KindCode (if known) |                                |   |   |                               |
|                          | B1       |                         |                            |                                |   |   |                               |
|                          | B2       |                         |                            |                                |   |   |                               |
|                          | B3       |                         |                            |                                |   |   |                               |
|                          | B4       |                         |                            |                                |   |   |                               |
|                          | B5       |                         |                            |                                |   |   |                               |
|                          | B6       |                         |                            |                                |   |   |                               |
|                          | B7       |                         |                            |                                |   |   |                               |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS |          |  |                               |
|-----------------|----------|--|-------------------------------|
| Exam. Init.*    | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | Translation<br>(Check if yes) |
|                 | C1       |  |                               |
|                 | C2       |  |                               |
|                 | C3       |  |                               |

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>*Examiner:</b>  | <b>Date Considered:</b> |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |                         |